THE

Borough of Daventry

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937

MAY, 1938

LIBRARY

"Glenariff House,"
West Haddon,
Rugby.

May 9th, 1938.

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS
OF THE
DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report dealing with the Sanitary conditions and the Health of the Borough during the year ending December 31st, 1937.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 3,633 acres.

Population.

The population of the Borough by the Census of 1931 was 3,608; Males 1,783, Females 1,825. The population by the Census of 1921 was 3,518, so that during the ten years the Borough increased by 90 persons.

The Registrar General estimates that the population of the Borough in 1937 was 3,671, so I am assuming that these figures are correct for the working out of the statistics of this Annual Report.

Number of Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year 1937, according to the rate books, was 1,071.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers.

The number of families or separate occupiers, according to the Census of 1931, was 980, by that of 1921 it was 913, showing an increase of 67 in the ten years.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the Borough at the end of the year 1937 was £22,493, showing an increase of £3,903 in the twelve months.

Sum represented by a penny rate.

The sum represented by a penny rate is estimated to produce £85.

Birth Rate.

The number of living Births registered in the Town during the year was 55; Males 33, Females 22; of these one male was illegitimate.

The birth-rate for the year is therefore 14.98 per 1,000 living, which is 0.08 above the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1937.

The following are the particulars for each of the last five years.

1933	Males	21	Females	25	Birth Rate	12.77
1934	,,	25	,,	35	,,	16.73
1935	,,	23	,,	27	,,	13.92
1936	,,	26	,,	30	,,	15.20
1937	,,	33	,,	22	,,	14.98

Three legitimate male still-births were registered in the Borough during the year.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths registered in the Town was 63; Males 39, Females 24; this gives a death-rate of 17.16 per 1,000 for the year, and is 4.76 above the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1937.

The following are the particulars for each of the last five years.

1933	Males	22	Females	24	Death Rate	12.77
1934	,,	25	,,	24	,,	13.66
1935	,,	14	,,	22	,,	10.02
1936	,,	23	,,	18	,,	11.12
1937	,,	39	,,	24	,,	17.16

Infant Mortality.

There was one death of a legitimate infant under one year. The following are the particulars for each of the last five years.

1933	...	21.73	per	1.000	births.
1934	...	83.33	..	..	..
1935	...	00.00	..	..	..
1936	...	17.85	..	..	..
1937	...	18.18	..	..	..

Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 1.08 per 1,000; and from Respiratory Diseases it was 0.27 per 1,000. The following are the particulars for each of the last five years.

1933	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.27	Respiratory	Diseases	1.11
1934	.. ..	0 00	..	..	1.39
1935	.. ..	0.55	..	..	0.27
1936	.. ..	0 00	..	..	0.80
1937	. ..	1 08	..	..	0 27

Mortality.

The Mortality from different causes during the year 1937, according to the return made to me by the Registrar-General was as follows:

	Males	Females
Influenza	3	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	1
Other Tuberculosis	2	0
Cancer	8	3
Diabetes	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	0	1
Heart Disease	9	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	1
Bronchitis	1	0
Nephritis	2	0
Congenital Causes	1	0
Senility	4	5
Other Violence	2	2
Other Defined Causes	1	0
	39	24

Nursing.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the Town, this and the Health Visiting are under the supervision of the County Council. The District Nursing arrangements, which are maintained by voluntary contributions, are managed by a Local Committee; this Committee is affiliated to the Northampton County Nursing Association.

Infectious Sickness.

During the year 1937, eleven cases of Infectious Sickness were notified to me as occurring in the Borough, a decrease of three cases as compared with the year 1936. The following are the particulars of all the cases which have been reported to me during the last five years.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Scarlet Fever ...	3	12	9	5	2
Diphtheria	1	1	1	2	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	4	2	4
Other Tuberculosis ...	0	0	1	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0	1	3	2
Chicken Pox ...	0	4	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	1	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	2	1	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever...	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	6	19	20	14	11

There were only two cases of Scarlet Fever in the Borough, this is a marked improvement on former years, both these cases were mild, they were moved to the Staverton Isolation Hospital and recovered.

The case of Cerebro-spinal Fever was treated in Northampton Hospital for some time, and as nothing more could be done the child was sent home. The case proved fatal.

The Town was quite free from Diphtheria, this has not been the case for several years.

No case of Small Pox, Enteric Fever, nor Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred in the Borough during the year.

Tuberculosis.

The following are the particulars of the cases notified:

One Pulmonary	...	a male aged 51
One Pulmonary	...	a male aged 39
One Pulmonary	...	a male aged 23
One Pulmonary	...	a female aged 16
One Other Forms	...	a female aged 22

Deaths (Tuberculosis).

One Pulmonary	...	a male aged 59
One Pulmonary	...	a male aged 59
One Pulmonary	...	a male aged 51
One Pulmonary	...	a female aged 16
One Other Forms	...	a male aged 17
One Other Forms	...	a male aged 13

The notification of Tuberculosis in the Town is efficient, and no action or proceedings were necessary for wilful neglect. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, this disease in any particular part of the Borough Special attention is always paid to Tubercular cases, not only on behalf of the sufferers themselves, but also for the sake of other members of the families.

Isolation Hospital.

The arrangement with the Daventry Rural District Council for the reception of patients into their Isolation Hospital at Staverton continues quite satisfactory. During the twelve months two Scarlet Fever cases were sent in and both recovered.

During the last five years the following cases were removed from the Borough to the Staverton Isolation Hospital for treatment.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Scarlet Fever	3	11	9	5	2
Diphtheria	1	0	1	2	0

In my last Annual Report I referred to changes which were likely to take place in the management of this Hospital. During the past year several meetings were held of representatives from Brackley and Daventry Boroughs, Brackley, Daventry, Northampton and Towcester Rural District Councils, and it was decided to form a Joint Hospital Board for all these areas, and for it to be known by the name of the Western Northamptonshire Joint Hospital Board. Since the beginning of the present year this scheme has been approved of by the Ministry of Health, and the Hospital will be taken over by the Board on April 1st, 1938, though its first meeting cannot be held before June. Your Council will appoint two members to act on this Board.

Since the agreement with the Warwick Joint Hospital Board terminated, no arrangement has been made for the treatment of a Small Pox case should it occur.

For non-infectious sickness the Borough is within easy distance of the General Hospital, Northampton, or the Hospital of St. Cross, in Rugby, and for Tuberculosis cases there is the Sanatorium at Rushden under the Northamptonshire County Council.

The rooms from which any infectious persons are removed are always disinfected, and after death in certain diseases I always get the Sanitary Inspector to disinfect or burn what is necessary.

No special arrangements have been made for Bacteriological examinations, and I hardly think this is necessary, as when required these can be carried out by the Pathologist at the General Hospital, Northampton.

Ambulance.

The Borough has its own Ambulance for the removal of serious illness, or accidents, to one of the General Hospitals in Northampton or Rugby, and for the removal of infectious cases arrangements have been made with the Daventry Rural District Council for the use of the Fever Ambulance kept at the Staverton Isolation Hospital.

Schools.

These are all in a very satisfactory state, and at no time during the year had I to advise the closing of a school on account of Infectious illness.

Vaccination.

Little Vaccination has been done in the Borough during the twelve months, and none under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Industry.

The chief trade of the Town is Boot and Shoe Manufacturing; this gives employment to many hundreds; and doubtless the British Broadcastting Corporation's Empire Transmitting Stations on Borough Hill also find some work for the inhabitants. There is also a large number of Agricultural labourers working in the surrounding neighbourhood who reside in the Town. There has been some unemployment during the year, and there were also a number of others in the Borough who were on short time. but on the whole I do not think there has been so much unemployment as in the preceding years.

Houses.

The following are the general details regarding the Housing question for the year 1937, as asked for by the Ministry of Health :

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

(1)	*(a)*	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	308
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	392
(2)	*(a)*	Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	125
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	14
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	4
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	84

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—*

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	64

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

A—		Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	36
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit afer service of formal notices:	
		(a) By Owners	16
		(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...	Nil
B—		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	48

	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
		(a) By Owners	48
		(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...	Nil
C—		Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	24
D—		Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
	(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, tenements or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Housing Act, 1935—Part IV. Overcrowding.

A	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	11
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	78
B		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
C	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	49
D		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
E		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

The Sanitary Inspector and myself, both together and separately, made many inspections of the dwelling-houses throughout the Town under the different Housing Acts, these houses are in a very different condition to what they were a few years ago. Our chief work was pressing forward the reconditioning of many houses, we were fairly successful, but will have to continue it for some time to come.

The following are the number of houses already ordered for demolition or otherwise dealt with.

First Year's Plan	36 Houses
Dealt with under Section 19 ...	2 Houses
Second Year's Plan	27 Houses
Dealt with under Section 19 ...	1 House
Third Year's Plan	16 Houses
Dealt with under Section 19 ...	4 Houses
Fourth Year's Plan, under 1936 Act	5 Houses

The Water Supply of the houses is from the Town Supply and is quite accessible in nearly all the cases; the sanitary accommodation is fairly satisfactory, and the drainage passes into the sewers of the Town; refuse and ashes are collected at regular intervals.

Forty-two new houses have been completed during the year, and many more are in course of being built; the following are the numbers that have been erected during the past seven years.

In 1931 . .	12
In 1932	16
In 1933	18
In 1934 .. .	8
In 1935 ...	32
In 1936 .	23
In 1937	42

Twelve of these latter houses were built by private enterprise.

Overcrowding.

Much attention was paid to this matter during the year. Of the sixteen cases at the beginning of 1937, nine were abated, four new cases occurred, due to children reaching 10 years of age or babies being born inio the families, leaving at the end of the year eleven cases. It is proposed to build some four bedroomed houses to deal with the worst of these cases, and the others can be dealt with in some other way.

During the year the inspection of houses revealed that five were infected with bugs—Council Houses 1,

other houses 4. These were disinfected by the Local Authority, sulphur being used for the purpose with success.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage of the Town is quite satisfactory; all the sewage being carried to the Sewage Works and Farm for treatment. No river pollution can take place as there are only two small brooks near the Town, and these find their way into the Reservoir belonging to the Grand Union Canal.

The following is work done under this head during the last three years:

	1935	1936	1937
New Drains Constructed	39	25	48
Drains Repaired	11	13	7
Drains Relaid	0	0	3
Drains unblocked or Cleaned ...	6	15	14
Drains Examined and Tested ...	74	42	78
Manholes Built	33	31	54

Closet Accommodation.

There are water closets for all the houses except a few solitary ones outside the Town, some of these have no flushing apparatus, to this insanitary arrangement I have on many occasions referred, and urged that for the health of the Town it should be altered. Now with the slum clearance, and already over 80 houses condemned for demolition, there will be a great improvement in this matter, and I feel certain it will tend to improve the health of Daventry. The following is the work carried out under this head during the last three years:

	1935	1936	1937
Water-closets—Limewashed	72	87	65
Water-closets—New Flushing Apparatus Fixed	34	37	58
Water-closets—Flushing Apparatus Repaired	9	17	12
Water-closets—New Pans Fixed	9	15	16
Water-closets—Unblocked and Repairs ...	6	21	11
Water-closets—Built	39	37	63

Scavenging.

The Scavenging of the Town is carried out by the Corporation; all the house refuse and ashes are collected once a week and removed to an old brickyard off the London Road.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, these are frequently visited, they are both kept clean and are well conducted.

Sanitary Work.

A considerable amount of Sanitary Work was carried out in various parts of the Town. The following table gives some particulars of the work done during the year, and for comparision, that done in the previous two years:

	1935	1936	1937
Complaints Received	13	21	12
Nuisances Detected	43	51	48
Nuisances Abated	43	45	48
Houses and Premises Inspected	372	342	308
Houses and Premises Re-inspected ...	43	51	36
Houses and Premises Repaired	43	45	84
Notices Issued (Preliminary)	43	51	84
Notices Issued (Statutory)	19	13	10
Notices Issued (Statutory) under 1936 P.H. Act	0	0	36
Notices Still Outstanding	0	6	20
Notices Complied with under Order of the Magistrates	0	0	0

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Town is chiefly from the Corporation's own property at Dodford, where there is a deep spring in the middle lias, this is a pure supply, though somewhat hard. There have not been the difficulties over the supply as in former years, the increased rainfall has helped matters considerably, and the additional works put in during 1931 have also been of great assistance, I have heard little complaints of any shortage.

There is also a Private Supply of water from Borough Hill, this water is satisfactory and pure; a few of the outlying houses outside the Town are supplied by wells on their own premises. The following table gives a few details:

Houses supplied by the Corporation	998
New connections made during the year ...	52
Houses removed from Town Supply by demolition	54
Houses supplied by the Water Company (about)	78
Houses supplied by Pumps and Wells (about)	14

Slaughter Houses.

There are four registered Slaughter-houses in the Borough, also a licensed one, as well as the Public Slaughter-house under the Council. All these have been frequently visited, and no complaints have been received; they have been limewashed at the required times. The Butchers are

using every endeavour to carry out the Regulations which came into force on January 1st, 1925.

	1924	1925	1926
Registered	4	4	4
Licensed	0	1	1
	4	5	5

There has been no change since the year 1926.

Food.

The Food Supply of the Town is good, and the premises where it is stored or exposed for sale satisfactory. No case of food poisoning was reported in the Borough during the year.

The following was found to be unfit for food; it was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Beef	4.700 lbs.
Pork	540 lbs.
Mutton	90 lbs.
Fish	238 lbs.

The Ministry of Health has asked for the following table to be filled up. Some of the details had not been kept separately but the Sanitary Inspector has given me the following figures which he believes to be as nearly correct as it is possible to get them.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle. Cows excluding Cows.		Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed (if known) ...	653		10	2977	2672
Number Inspected	331		23	1422	1265
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3		Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	·9		--	·21	--
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	7		Nil	Nil	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5		Nil	Nil	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3·6		--	--	1·1

Milk Supply.

All the Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds in the Borough have been kept under careful supervision during the year, and they have been frequently visited and found to be in a satisfactory condition. There are eighteen on the register; during the year twenty-four samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, and the following reports were made on them: fifteen were good, and nine were bad. I fail to understand why these samples had a bad report, everything at the dairy was satisfactory and former samples were good, perhaps the tests were more severe than formerly. The Sanitary Inspector gives in his Report a very full statement regarding the samples taken in the Borough. The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, has involved a closer watch and generally a stricter enforcement of all the conditions of dairying. In all cases of the more serious forms of infectious disease, a careful enquiry and inspection of the milk supply is always made. I heard of no shortage of milk, and no tubercular milking cows came under notice during the year. I believe that on the whole the milk supply of the Town is satisfactory.

Petrol Stores.

There are fourteen Petrol Stores in the Borough, a decrease of one during the year; these stores are well looked after and every possible care is taken.

Factory and Workshops Act.

The Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, is carried out in the Town in a satisfactory manner; inspections were frequently made during the year, and no nuisances nor other offences were discovered. There is no underground bakehouse in the Borough, and care has been taken to see that Bakers keep their bakehouses in a properly clean state, and that they are white-washed at the regular periods.

Staff.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are:

G. E. Foster,	Clerk to the Borough Council.
A. R. Darley,	Medical Officer of Health.
J. B. Williams,	Consulting Surveyor.
A. J. Paxman,	Surveyor.
F. Bailey,	Sanitary Inspector.

All these, as one would expect, in a small Town like Daventry, are part time officers, with the exception of Mr. A. J. Paxman, who gives his whole time to the work. Since the end of the year Mr. F Bailey, Sanitary Inspector, has been appointed a whole time officer.

I append the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article XX (16) of the Local Government Board's General Order of 13th December, 1910

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED R. DARLEY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Borough of Daventry

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

In submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937, I beg to report as follows:

W.C's. built 63, W.C's. relimewashed 65, Unblocked 11, New pans fixed 16, Flushes repaired 12, New flushes fixed 58

Drains.

Constructed 48, repaired 7, cleared 14, examined and tested 78.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

During the year eleven cases of Infectious Disease were reported:—Scarlet Fever 2, Erysipelas 1, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1, Other Tuberculosis 1, Pneumonia 2, Cerebral Spinal Fever 1.

One of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, a girl, died in Rushden Sanatorium a few days after she was notified, and a man also died. The remaining two cases are now in Sanatorium, one at Rushden, the other at Bournemouth.

The case of Cerebral Spinal Fever was a child of 14 months who had been in the General Hospital at Northampton, and died a few days after her return home. The house was thoroughly disinfected and, at the parents' request, the cot, pram, toys and everything which had been in contact with the child was burnt.

Ten houses were disinfected, bedding being destroyed after deaths from Cancer or Tuberculosis, and compensation paid where a request for payment was received.

Disinfectant and soap was supplied in all infectious cases.

Slaughter-houses and Butchers' Shops.

There are four registered, one licensed, and the Public Slaughter-house in use in the Town. This is the same number as for several years past. The number of animals slaughtered was less than last year, as one of the Butchers has now disposed of his shop at Leamington.

The number of animals slaughtered during the past year was as follows:

Beast 653, Sheep 2,977, Pigs 2,672, Calves 40, Total 6,342

The majority of the animals slaughtered were of excellent quality, and all the shops have up-to-date cold storage plants, and no unsound meat was found being offered for sale.

Humane stunners are used on all animals, the buildings have been kept in a clean state, and no cause for complaint has been found.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

The number on the register is the same as last year.

Premises have been visited very frequently, in fact more often than in previous years, as I was anxious to find and remove the cause of the disappointing reports received upon the samples sent for bacteriological examination at Northampton for the second half of 1936.

At the commencement of 1937, samples sent in were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test instead of to the Bacterial Plate Count Method.

Six samples were sent in on				Feb	16th.	4	were returned as Good. and			2	Bad
..	..	..	..	May	10th.	4	..	..	..	2	..
..	..	..	..	Sept.	13th.	1	..	..	..	5	..
..	..	..	..	Dec	21st.	6	..	..	..	–	..

Dr. Ivan Jones attended a meeting of the Public Health Committee to explain the two methods of testing the milk, and produced a graph showing the percentage of milk samples which passed the Methylene Blue reduction test as applied in the County of Northampton. This showed that of all the samples of non-designated milk sent in during July only 20% passed the test.

The reports received on the samples of milk sent in during the past six years are as follows:

Year.	No. of samples.	Good.	Designation. Clean.	Moderate.	Bad.
1932	15	11	–	3	1
1933	12	4	4	3	1
1934	20	19	–	1	–
1935	20	19	–	1	–
1936	24	14	–	9	1
1937	24	15	–	–	9

The figures for 1937 are very disapointing, both to the producers and also to the Inspector. One producer, who on the Plate Test had never had a report less than Good and had counts of 1,000, 5,000, 9,000, 28,000 and 120,000 was returned as bad under the new system on February 16th, May 10th, and September 13th, but I am pleased to say returned to good on December 21st, and also a sample forwarded early in 1938 was good.

Unsound Meat and other Foods.

I have visited all Slaughter-houses, Fish Shops, Bake-houses and all premises where food is prepared for sale very frequently, and very little cause for complaint has been found.

The following quantities of Meat and Fish were found to be unfit for food and was surrendered and destroyed :
Beef 4,700 lbs., Pork 540 lbs., Mutton 90 lbs., Fish 238 lbs

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

Petrol Stores.

The number of Petrol Stores in the Town is now 14—one less than last year.

Practically all petrol is sold from pumps and therefore the petrol is stored underground, and there has been no cause for complaint during the year.

Nuisances.

I have received 12 complaints and found 48 causes of nuisance required attention. Preliminary notices were served in each case, and it was found necessary later to serve 10 Statutory Notices, all of which were complied with.

House Inspection.

I have accompanied the M.O.H. on several occasions when visiting the various courts and small properties in the Town. In addition I have made frequent visits to all parts of the Town.

Several of the cases of overcrowding have been relieved during the year, in some cases the families have been removed to Council Houses, in others, members of the family have married and left home, and in two cases the position has been relieved through deaths in the family. The Council are considering building four 4-bedroomed houses early in the new year, and this will relieve some of the worst cases.

A few of the houses which were on the border line two years ago are now definitely overcrowded, and will need attention as soon as it is convenient.

Factories and Workshops.

I have made frequent visits to the factories, workshops and workplaces and I have found no cause for complaint, neither have I received any complaint from the Factory Inspector.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the Town. Both have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition, and no cause for complaint has been found.

Sanitary Dust Bins.

During the year the inspection of the Town was completed, and notices were served in respect of a further 363 houses. At the end of the year all notices had been complied with except four. A further 15 defective bins were found and notices will shortly be served respecting them.

There are still a quantity of wood boxes and metal oil drums, which have been fitted with lids, in use as ash bins.

Rat Week.

The same procedure was followed during Rat Week as in previous years. Posters were exhibited in shops, clubs, public houses, etc., and copies of the posters were sent to land owners and other persons having premises likely to be infested with rats. The local Chemists made a special display of rat poisons, etc. The Sewage Farm, Tip, and Council premises were dressed with poison, and poison supplied to anyone asking for it.

Housing Act, 1935.

All persons applying for their cottages to be measured, so that the details can be entered in their rent books, have been supplied with the necessary figures, but a great many rent books do not yet contain this information.

Reconditioning of Houses.

During the year the reconditioning of 9 houses was completed and work was commenced on 21 other houses. The work carried out and in hand includes providing separate W.C. accommodation, ventilated foodstores, new floors, grates, etc., where necessary.

Five houses were found to be infested with bugs, and each was fumigated with sulphur.

Two samples of water were taken during the year and forwarded to Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby to be analysed. One, taken from a spring serving two houses, about one mile from the Town, was reported to be satisfactory at the moment but it was suggested that it should be kept under observation. The second sample was taken from a pump which supplied ten cottages in the Town This sample was found to be unsatisfactory, the pump has been closed and the Town water laid on.

On 15th July the Town was visited by an exceptionally heavy thunder storm, which caused the sewer to blow up through the drains in the lower part of the Town. Several houses were flooded, some to a depth of three feet. I visited the premises as soon as the storm had ceased and supplied disinfectant to the people whose houses had been flooded.

Two houses were closed under Section 11 of the 1936 Housing Act, and a clearance area (of two houses) under Section 26 was made.

In addition, an owner agreed not to let a cottage as a dwelling house again but promised to convert it into a wash house.

Trusting this report will meet with your approval,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK BAILEY,

Sanitary Inspector,

Borough of Daventry.

TABLE I.

BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	39	0	0
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	105	0	0
Workplaces ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	27	0	0
Total ...	171	0	0

TABLE II.

BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—*				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of floors ..				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation } insufficient ... ... unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ...	0	0	0	0

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

9th May, 1938. ALFRED R. DARLEY, *Medical Officer of Health.*